

REMARKS OF WILLIAM J. CASEY
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

BEFORE

NASSAU COUNTY COUNCIL OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
THEODORE ROOSEVELT DINNER

6 NOVEMBER 1986

CREST HOLLOW COUNTRY CLUB
8325 JERICHO TURNPIKE, WOODBURY, NEW YORK

ON BEHALF OF MY FELLOW ROUGH RIDERS LET ME EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE HIGH HONOR AWARDED US TONIGHT!

ON SUCH AN OCCASION OUR THOUGHTS RUN TO THE PAST AND THE MANY WAYS TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S VALUES AND LEGACY SHAPED OUR COUNTRY AND OUR LIVES.

IN MY CASE, IMBUED WITH T.R. TRADITION THROUGH MY GREAT FRIEND AND LAW PARTNER AND COMRADE-IN-ARMS IN SEVEN OR EIGHT PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS, LEONARD WOOD HALL. NO! LEN DID NOT MANAGE TEDDY'S ELECTION TO PRESIDENT. LEN, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, WAS A GOOD COUNTRY LAWYER FROM OYSTER BAY. HE WAS TEDDY'S GODSON AND HIS BROTHER WAS THEODORE ROOSEVELT HALL. LEN WAS NAMED AFTER TEDDY'S GREAT FRIEND, GENERAL LEONARD WOOD, CONQUEROR OF THE PHILIPPINES. LEN'S FATHER WAS TEDDY'S COACHMAN. WHEN TEDDY WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT, LEN'S FATHER GOT A BIG PROMOTION; TEDDY BROUGHT HIS COACHMAN TO WASHINGTON AND MADE HIM LIBRARIAN AT THE WHITE HOUSE. NO PRESIDENT EVER HAD A GREATER NEED FOR A LIBRARIAN THAN TEDDY ROOSEVELT DID!

AS A TEN-YEAR-OLD HE ROAMED ALL OVER LOWER MANHATTAN CAPTURING MICE, LIZARDS AND RACOONS, SKINNING, TANNING AND MOUNTING THEM. AT THIRTEEN, HE WAS A HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL TAXIDERMIST AND HAD HIS OWN MUSEUM IN HIS CELLAR. BY THE TIME HE WAS TWENTY, HE WROTE WHAT IS STILL ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST MILITARY CLASSICS--A HISTORY OF THE U.S. NAVY IN THE WAR OF 1812.

ROOSEVELT NEVER WASTED ANYTHING HE DID. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE WAS RUNNING AND EXPANDING HIS OWN NAVY AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE U.S. NAVY, HAVING SENT HIS BOSS, THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, OFF ON LONG SUMMER VACATIONS AND LONG SEA CRUISES.

BEFORE LONG, TEDDY WAS RAISING CATTLE AND HUNTING ELK AND BUFFALO IN THE BADLANDS OF THE DAKOTAS. WHEN HE FINALLY GOT TO THE WHITE HOUSE, LEN'S FATHER HAD TO LUG IN SOME THIRTY BOOKS TEDDY HAD WRITTEN HIMSELF, HISTORIES, BIOGRAPHIES, TRAVEL BOOKS, ESSAYS. MOST NOTABLY THE 4-VOLUME "THE WINNING OF THE WEST," THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT EVER WRITTEN OF HOW WE AMERICANS SETTLED AND SPREAD ACROSS THIS GREAT LAND. LEN'S FATHER ALSO HAD TO LUG IN AND HANG UP IN THE WHITE HOUSE SCORES OF THE KINDS OF ANIMAL HEADS LIKE THOSE YOU CAN SEE IN THE GREAT ROOM OF THE ROOSEVELT HOUSE AT SAGAMORE HILL.

TODAY WE ARE HERE TO THANK TEDDY ROOSEVELT FOR ONE OF HIS PIONEER ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH IS STILL A VITAL PART OF THIS COMMUNITY OF OURS. THEODORE ROOSEVELT WAS ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THE NASSAU COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 70TH BIRTHDAY THIS EVENING. HE WAS THE FIRST COUNCIL COMMISSIONER AND THE ONLY PERSON EVER HONORED AS CHIEF SCOUT CITIZEN.

BUT TONIGHT IS NOT REALLY A TIME TO DWELL ON THE PAST. IT IS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE. NEVER IN THIS NATION'S HISTORY HAVE WE BEEN IN GREATER NEED OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S COURAGE, REALISM, AND ABSOLUTELY OVERWHELMING SENSE OF OPTIMISM ABOUT THIS COUNTRY AND WHAT IT CAN ACHIEVE. THE

BOY SCOUTS OF THIS GENERATION ARE FACING A WORLD QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE TEDDY ROOSEVELT KNEW. HOW MUCH THE WORLD HAS CHANGED JUST SINCE WW II WHEN THE U.S. BRIEFLY DOMINATED THE WORLD ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. THE NUMBER OF WORLD PLAYERS HAS PROLIFERATED, ISSUES ARE NOW BEWILDERINGLY COMPLEX, THE PACE OF CHANGE OVERWHELMING, AND THE WORLD MUCH SMALLER AND MORE DANGEROUS. THE DAYS OF SAFE COMPLACENCY AND AUTOMATIC PROSPERITY INDEED ARE BEHIND US. BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE OUR COUNTRY'S INTERESTS HAVE NEVER BEEN SO GREAT. OUR DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS ARE WHAT THE WORLD WANTS. OUR TECHNOLOGICAL INGENUITY, FREE MARKET ECONOMICS, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DRIVE HOLD THE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THAT GRIP THE THIRD WORLD. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MUSTER THE COURAGE AND RESOLVE TO USE THESE ENORMOUS ADVANTAGES IN STANDING UP TO OUR TOTALITARIAN ADVERSARIES. IF WE DO, THIS NATION WILL FARE WELL AS IT MOVES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

IN OTHER WORDS, TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S LEGACY HAS NEVER BEEN MORE RELEVANT. TEN YEARS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE 20TH CENTURY, IN 1890, HE ADVISED THE NATION AND I QUOTE:

"FAR BETTER IT IS TO DARE MIGHTY THINGS, TO WIN GLORIOUS TRIUMPHS, EVEN THOUGH CHECKERED BY FAILURE, THAN TO TAKE RANK WITH THOSE POOR SPIRITS WHO NEITHER ENJOY MUCH NOR SUFFER MUCH, BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN THE GRAY TWILIGHT THAT KNOWS NOT VICTORY NOR DEFEAT."

FORTUNATELY, OUR NATION STILL HEARS TEDDY ROOSEVELT. TWO WEEKS AGO, I PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT -- OUR LATEST NUCLEAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND A MAGNIFICENT SYMBOL OF AMERICAN COURAGE AND STRENGTH AND RESOLVE. HOW PROUD TEDDY ROOSEVELT WOULD HAVE BEEN OF THAT SHIP! HOW PROUD HE WOULD BE OF HIS COUNTRY TODAY AND THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE HERE TONIGHT AND THROUGHOUT AMERICA IN THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT THAT IT HAS PRODUCED. HOW PLEASED HE WOULD BE THAT THE ADVICE HE GAVE TO HIS NATION WHEN STILL A YOUNG MAN HIMSELF IS STILL GOLDEN.

AGAIN, ON BEHALF OF MY FELLOW ROUGH RIDERS AND ALL OF US, FOR THE INSPIRATION, THE EXAMPLE, AND THE MAGNIFICENT HERITAGE YOU HAVE PROVIDED, TEDDY, WE THANK YOU.

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